



**Parks and Recreation Department Board
Minutes**

**July 10, 2001
Regular Meeting**

A regularly scheduled meeting of the Parks and Recreation Department Board was held on Tuesday, July 10, 2001 in the Board Room of the Parks and Recreation Department Main Office located at 200 South Lamar Blvd., Austin, Texas.

Board Members Present: Rosemary Castleberry, Mary Ruth Holder, Jeff Francell, Rocky Medrano, Amy Babich and Clint Small

Board Members Absent: Carol Kim and Rhonda Taylor

Staff Members Present: Jesus M. Olivares, Kimberley Jamail Mitchell, Stuart Strong, Jay Stone, Rick Ramirez and Dina Haines

A. MEETING CALLED TO ORDER

The meeting was called to order at 6:35 p.m. by Rosemary Castleberry, Chair.

- B. APPROVAL OF THE MINUTES** June 26, 2001 meeting. **Board Member Medrano** made the motion to approve the minutes as amended. **Board Member Holder** seconded the motion. **The Board was in favor 6-0-0.**

C. CITIZEN COMMUNICATION

None

D. ITEMS FOR ACTION

2. To Set a Public Hearing for the Concept of a Gondola Concession on Town Lake for August 28, 2001.
3. To Set a Public Hearing for the Concept of a Golf Driving Range in North Austin for August 28, 2001. **Items #2 and #3 were pulled to the beginning of the actions at the request of Board Chair Castleberry.**

Jay Stone, Financial Manager made a brief presentation to the board regarding the two concession items for which he was requesting to schedule a Public Hearing for the August 28, 2001 Parks Board meeting. The first item is a Gondola concession on Town Lake. Mr. Stone informed the board that he had received an inquiry from Las Vegas inquiring on an opportunity to bid on the concession. He also informed the board of the

second concession, a Golf Driving Range on two pieces of property owned by PARD. The properties are near Pflugerville, Texas. Mr. Stone stated that postings for the public meeting would be placed along the Hike and Bike trail and in the Austin American Statesman newspaper.

Board Member Francell made the motion to set a public hearing on August 28, 2001 for the Gondola and Golf Driving Range Concessions. **Board Member Medrano** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 6-0-0.**

1. Make a Recommendation to City Council Regarding Use Agreement for the Addition of a Northbound Turn Lane on Lamar Blvd at 24th Street through Dedicated Parkland.

Richard Kroger, Supervisor Engineer, Transportation Planning and Sustainability Department with the City of Austin gave a presentation to the board. Mr. Kroger informed the board that Council directed staff to make this project a high priority. This project could reduce rush hour traffic congestion along Lamar Blvd. at 24th Street. The proposed project would add a second left turn lane on Lamar Blvd. going north. The project will require the taking of dedicated parkland at the Caswell Tennis Center. Mr. Kroger stated four Cedar elm trees of varying sizes along Lamar Blvd. on the Caswell grounds would need to be removed, as well as adding retaining walls along both Lamar Blvd. and 24th Street on the Caswell grounds. He informed the board that efforts would be made to protect one large oak tree on the Caswell grounds along Lamar Blvd. and that in the future a sidewalk may be placed along Lamar on the Caswell grounds meandering through the remaining trees depending on funding availability. However, the sidewalk is not part of this project and will not be funded by it. Mr. Kroger stated that he is going to City Council on July 19th to request they set a public hearing at the Council hearing on August 23, 2001.

Board Members Holder and Francell asked questions concerning tree mitigation. Board Member Holder stated her concern that the project did not address improvements to the intersection to protect the safety of the large numbers of pedestrians crossing at the intersection to reach Pease Park and the golf disc course adjacent to the proposed new turn lane. She further stated her concern that the new turn lane might result in attracting additional traffic to the area and might increase traffic speed along Pease Park. Board Member Medrano also mentioned concern about not having mitigating information included in the packet in order to feel fully informed before the vote. Board Member Francell also stated that trees impacted by the construction should be compensated for the loss.

Mr. Kroger stated he would be glad to work with PARD on mitigation plans for the loss of trees.

Board Member Francell made the motion to refer the proposed project back to Land and Facilities for further mitigation plans and then back to the Parks Board, July 24, 2001 meeting. **Board Member Medrano** seconded the motion. **The motion passed in favor 6-0-0.**

E. DIRECTOR'S REPORT

Mr. Olivares discussed the information sent in the board's mail-out packet which was the upcoming "draft" proposed budget for PARD. Regarding the draft budget, he mentioned the Department would be coming back to the Parks Board with further information once it becomes available from the City Council. He also discussed an article in the Athletic Business magazine about the Parks and Recreation Department's Roving Leader Program. He reminded board members that July is National Parks and Recreation month and he encouraged board members to attend any upcoming events before the end of summer programs. Mr. Olivares also informed the board members he had met with various Council Member aides to discuss the Art Commission guidelines for Cultural Contracts funding.

F. COMMITTEE REPORTS

Programs Committee

None

Land and Facilities Committee

Board Member Holder informed the board of two topics discussed in addition to the Lamar at 24th Street project:

1. Linda Dupriest with the Transportation Planning and Sustainability Department spoke regarding the addition commuter style bike lanes to Barton Springs Road through Zilker Park.
2. The possibility of adding a traffic light(s) on Barton Springs Rd. through Zilker Park to ensure pedestrian safety.

Navigation Committee

Board Member Small informed the board of two topics discussed.

3. A party boat from Westlake is utilizing Walsh Boat Landing as a drop off and pick-up area.
4. Hydrilla problem on Lake Austin.

Bond Oversight Committee

Board Chair Castleberry would be working on writing a letter to City Council regarding recommendations for projects that are running behind schedule.

G. ITEMS FROM BOARD MEMBERS

None

H. The meeting adjourned at approximately 7:40 p.m.